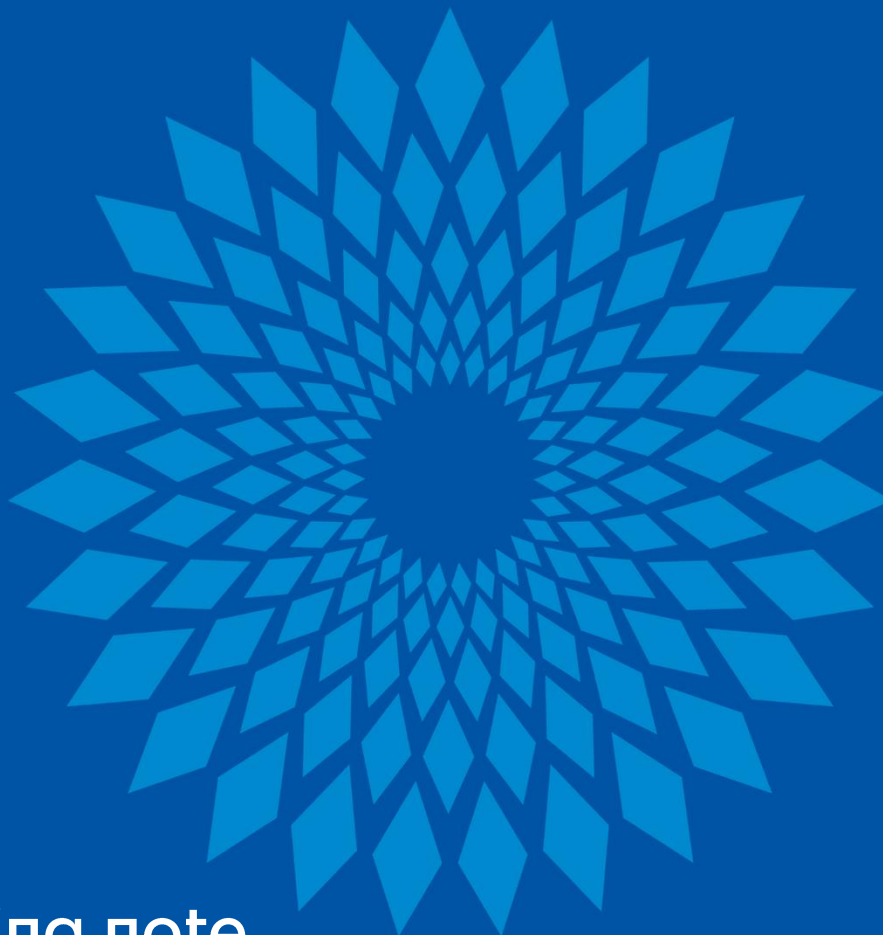


EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Briefing note Innovation

Conference on Synergies
in the Research and Innovation
Funding in Europe

Prague, Czech Republic
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Briefing note for the parallel break-out session Innovation

Europe has been lacking the ability to efficiently transform the leadership in science in the leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship. Europe has a very strong scientific base and an excellent level of research capacities and capabilities, but when it comes to commercializing the innovations, especially those in the so-called deep-tech technologies, and the venture capital investments Europe lags behind other countries and world macro-regions. Despite various incentives, which have been put in place to enhance public-private partnership, intensify knowledge transfer and promote industrial development **the EU's ambition to become either the worldwide leader or self-sufficient actor in the key strategy technology/economic areas has still not been met.**

The European Innovation Council (EIC), which was successfully introduced and piloted in the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme (2014–2020) and then embedded in the subsequent Horizon Europe EU Framework Programme (2021–2027), **has a clear objective to identify and support breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations to create new markets, and help promising companies to scale up and become competitive internationally.**

EIC plays an important role also in synergies. First, it gives the Member States opportunities to finance promising companies, which cannot be funded by EIC due to budgetary constraints, via delivering them the Seal of Excellence label, thereby guaranteeing their high innovation potential. Secondly, national and regional innovation programmes linked to the Horizon Europe EU Framework Programme (2021–2027) represent a real pipeline of ideas that help companies to scale up and create new markets.

Not all countries across the EU have already developed an efficient national innovation ecosystem that stimulates bringing the ideas from the knowledge to the business/industrial market. **Close cooperation of the European innovation stakeholders, mutual learning to share experiences and exchange good practice**

examples, and strong interface between different players of the innovation ecosystems are therefore essential for the EU to become competitive at the international level and support unicorns.

Small- and medium-sized enterprises, and start-ups in particular, call for a comprehensive overview (one-stop-shop) of the support they may possibly be provided from the public authorities, in any case tailor-made in accordance with their current life-cycle stage, accommodating their specific needs and responding to their specific challenges, which they are facing at the moment. In addition, only support provided without unnecessary bureaucratic burden and in short time delivers the true added value. Given that, **stakeholders of the European innovation ecosystem have to be flexible sufficient enough to understand and meet the needs of start-ups and innovative companies.**